

USDA Rural Development McKinney, Texas Area Office and North Collin Habitat for Humanity team up to fund the first USDA Rural Development – Habitat for Humanity Home in Texas

August 10, 2010, Melissa, Texas – A crowd gathered on a vacant lot in Melissa, Texas to “raise the first wall” on the home of Ms. Ruby Winters and her children. Ruby’s roots are in New Orleans where she was born. During Hurricane Katrina, Ruby and her two children, Jasmine and Yohon, evacuated the City of New Orleans and found shelter in McKinney, TX. She quickly found an apartment and job with C Cart Transportation Services in McKinney, where she has been employed for the past two years. In her spare time she loves to shop, decorate, and most importantly work with children. She is also very active in the Shiloh Church of God in Christ in Melissa, TX, where she teaches Sunday School. Ruby’s children are both students at McKinney North High School. Her daughter Jasmine (17) is senior and is a sprinter in the track and field program. Yohon (15) is a sophomore and plays trumpet in the band and is also part of AVID, a college preparatory program. Both children are volunteers in the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Program in Collin County.

Ms. Winters has been in the program for 2 years and has volunteered 300 hours working on other projects. She regularly attends budget meetings and stays involved in the organization. She has been involved with the construction of seven other homes prior to hers.

“The greatest reward from being involved in the program is the people I get to meet and the network of colleagues I have been able to maintain,” stated Ruby. Ms. Winters also mentioned that when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast she was in the middle of the home buying process, which unfortunately she was not able to complete; achieving the dream of get her own home is finally becoming a reality.

This project is the first Habitat for Humanity Home in Texas among the growing number of states that are including assistance from USDA Rural Development. Habitat and USDA Rural Development hope that there are many more joint opportunities in the near future.



Presentation of the Hammer

John Milner, North Collin Habitat of Humanity, presents the ceremonial hammer to the new home owner Ruby Winters and her son Yohon Winters



Volunteers, Habitat Staff, Donors, and City Officials



USDA Rural Development McKinney Area Office Staff

L-R Amber Anderson, Dustin McClendon, Angela Richardson, and Todd English



Raising of the First Wall



Ms. Winters drives the first nail to connect two walls while her son Yohon supervises. Ms Winters drove the nail just like a professional carpenter. She has served over 300 hours working on other Habitat Homes, prior to the ground breaking of her own.



Mayor of the City of Melissa Reed Greer welcomes Ms. Ruby Winters to the community.



L to R Todd English, Angela Richardson, Home Owner Ruby Winters, Mayor Reed Greer, Dustin McClendon, Amber Anderson



Progress is being made on Ms. Winters home as volunteers install more walls.